

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (canceled)

2. (amended) A method of identifying a subset of records within a database for purposes of representing said database comprising:

choosing a selection attribute from one of a plurality of attributes contained in records within the database; –

scanning records in the database and applying a randomizing function to the selection attribute of each record to create a randomized record value; and

applying a selection criteria to identify records for inclusion within a subset of records by comparing the randomized record value of each record with the selection criteria. ~~The method of claim 1~~ wherein the selection attribute contains a numeric value and additionally comprising scaling the numeric value with a factor before applying the randomizing function.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. 1.113

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Claim 3. (canceled)

4. (amended) A method of identifying a subset of records within a database for purposes of representing said database comprising:

choosing a selection attribute from one of a plurality of attributes contained in records within the database; -

scanning records in the database and applying a randomizing function to the selection attribute of each record to create a randomized record value; and

applying a selection criteria to identify records for inclusion within a subset of records by comparing the randomized record value of each record with the selection criteria. ~~The method of claim 1~~ wherein the scanning of records and applying the selection criteria is implemented by an SQL statement that includes a randomizing function.

Claim 5. (canceled)

Claim 6. (canceled)

Claim 7. (canceled)

Claim 8. (canceled)

9. (amended) A Client/Server computer apparatus comprising:

one or more client computers coupled to a network and including communications instructions for requesting a data set by means of the network;

a server computer coupled to the network and having access to a database having a number of records, said server computer including instructions for sending a dataset made up of a subset of the records in the database to a client computer via the network;

said server computer including instructions for scanning records in the database, applying a randomizing function to a specified record attribute of each record in the database to produce a randomized record value, and comparing the randomized record value with a selection criteria to determine whether to include a record in the subset of records from the database for transmission via the network to the client; and
~~The Client/Server apparatus of claim 7 additionally comprising an SQL language interpreter for converting requests from a client to an SQL statement including a randomizing function.~~

Claim 10. (canceled)

11. (amended) A computer readable medium including instructions for identifying a subset of records within a database for purposes of representing said database, said computer readable medium comprising instructions for:

choosing a selection attribute from one of a plurality of attributes contained by records with the database;

scanning records in the database and applying a randomizing function to the selection attribute of each record to create a randomized record value; and

applying a selection criteria to identify records for inclusion within a subset of records by comparing the randomized record value of each record with the selection criteria. ~~The computer-readable medium of claim 10~~ wherein the selection attribute contains a numeric value and additionally comprising instructions for scaling the numeric value with a factor before applying the randomizing function.

Claim 12. (canceled)

13. (amended) A computer readable medium including instructions for identifying a subset of records within a database for purposes of representing said database, said computer readable medium comprising instructions for:

choosing a selection attribute from one of a plurality of attributes contained by records with the database;

scanning records in the database and applying a randomizing function to the selection attribute of each record to create a randomized record value; and

applying a selection criteria to identify records for inclusion within a subset of records by comparing the randomized record value of each record with the selection criteria. ~~The computer-readable medium of~~

~~claim 10~~ wherein the scanning of records and applying the selection criteria are performed by instructions that implement an SQL statement that includes a randomizing function.

Claim 14. (canceled)

Claim 15. (canceled)